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Gov't demands PA quell riots

Palestinian killed in Gaza violence

By MARGOT DUKKEVITCH, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and LIAT COLLINS

The Defense Ministry issued a harsh warning last night to the Palestinian Authority that, unless the Palestinian Police intervenes to quell the rioting in Hebron, Israel's security forces will have no choice but to react with an iron fist policy.

One defense official said they also warned that the escalation in Hebron could also jeopardize recent efforts to resume peace negotiations. The official said a copy of the message was relayed to the Palestinians through international channels, presumably the Americans.

Foreign Minister David Levy, speaking in the Knesset yesterday, urged the PA to halt the violence. "What we see these days must change," he said. "This is an opportunity to call on the Palestinian Authority, which is bound by the Hebron agreement, to bring the violence down to zero. It cannot tolerate such things. It contravenes the fresh agreement which we signed. I'm not saying it initiates [the violence], but it is obliged to stop it."

Fierce clashes between IDF troops and border policemen and Palestinian rioters broke out again yesterday in Hebron and in the Gaza Strip, where one Palestinian was killed. In Hebron, over 100 firebombs were hurled at troops and police. One border policeman was lightly injured when a firebomb burned his hand and Palestinians claimed 38 were injured.

The riots broke out in the casbah alleyways and Shallala Road not

far from Beit Hadassah. Additional troops were sent to Hebron on Tuesday night and yesterday morning IDF snipers were seen perched on rooftops firing at Palestinians who hurled firebombs, stones, and bottles of acid.

While there were no Palestinian Police units present to quell the rioters, Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub walked by some of the rioters, who recognized him and started calling for a renewal of the intifada. Rajoub told reporters that if the stalemate in the peace talks continued, the situation in Hebron would blow up.

Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak met with Preventive Security chief Mohammed Dahlan last night in Gaza, while earlier yesterday OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ophir met with PA counterpart Haj Ismail.

Meanwhile, the two IDF soldiers wounded by a pipe bomb thrown at them in Hebron on Tuesday were still in the hospital yesterday. Lior Cohen, who suffered serious injuries, is in intensive care after undergoing 13 hours of surgery. Doctors at the hospital said his condition is serious but stable. Rafi Raphael, who was lightly injured by shrapnel, said all he could remember was standing with Cohen in an alleyway aiming at Palestinian rioters when suddenly there was a blast, the force of which threw him to the other side of the road.

Yesterday morning, IDF troops sealed off the alleyway where Cohen and Raphael were wounded with large drums filled with cement.

See GAZA, Page 2



US Consul General Edward Abington (center) tours Hebron yesterday with Palestinian Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub (left) and a Palestinian Police officer. (AP)

Egypt, US work to restart talks

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Egypt is working behind the scenes with strong American support to reactivate Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation as a means to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table, a highly placed source said yesterday.

The commitments being made on both sides by their senior military personnel are relayed to American peace envoy Dennis Ross, who evidently is orchestrating this delicate diplomatic process from afar while his Egyptian counterpart, Osama el-Baz, works locally.

CIA personnel based in Israel evidently have been overseeing implementation of the reinstatement of the joint security arrangements and have been participating in the military-level talks.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office were unable to specify the date of el-Baz's impending arrival in Israel. However, they contended that he can make headway without being present here.

On the other hand, they stressed that the arrangements for reactivating the joint patrols and resuming the exchange of vital intelligence are being made by senior

military personnel in keeping with guidelines worked out by el-Baz and approved by Ross.

This headway has been endangered by the spiral of violence in Hebron, the sources said, which "is being encouraged by Palestinian Authority Chairman

Yasser Arafat." The Palestinian leader was accused of "playing a double game" - engaging in diplomatic dialogue while fomenting unrest on the ground. One element of this strategy is Arafat's reliance on worldwide TV coverage of the confrontation between Palestinian youths and heavily armed IDF soldiers.

"Arafat cannot have it both ways," a senior government aide said, implying that the government's patience is wearing thin and that the troops cannot be expected to exercise restraint on an open-ended basis.

Palestinian analysts contended that Arafat has been trying to pla-

cate the militant wing of his Fatah organization, whose influential members disapproved of his having sent his deputy, Mahmoud Abbas, to meet with National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon on June 16.

They told of a bitter debate on this issue between Arafat and his detractors during a recent PA coclave in Gaza, at which they depicted Sharon as one of the Palestine Liberation Organization's arch-enemies and accused him of personal responsibility for the 1982 massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps near Beirut.

The escalation in street fighting along the line separating Hebron's Jewish quarter from the part of the city controlled by the PA was described as Arafat's method of neutralizing his critics.

Jon Immanuel adds:

While Egyptian and Israeli sources appeared anxious to show some optimism concerning progress, an aide to Arafat said yesterday that the peace talks are close to collapse and the tension in the territories close to explosion.

"Mr. Netanyahu has dealt with the Egyptian moves as a public relations game and not with the appropriate seriousness," PA cabi-

US hopes security ties improving, Page 2

net secretary Ahmed Abdel-Rahman told a Ramallah news conference. Abdel-Rahman's prediction came amid talk by Arafat himself of renewed security coordination with Israel and talks reported by the Israeli media in between Israeli and Palestinian security officials on several levels.

However, Preventive Security chiefs Jibril Rajoub and Mohammed Dahlan denied there was any renewed coordination. Further progress is predicated by the Palestinians on a settlement freeze, which Israel rejects.

In Bethlehem yesterday, a Christian merchant, normally considered to be motivated more by economic than by nationalist interests, said he cannot remember such tension. "Optimists say today is better than tomorrow. If economic conditions were better - free passage, free ports, an airport, more permits for businessmen - there would be no great calls for more redeployment, but there is no peace process with more settlements," he said.

Abdel-Rahman said that the decision by the Egyptians to end their mediation effort for the time being "put the ball back in the Israeli court."

Crisis lingers after Levy, PM meet

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The crisis between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy lingers on. After a 45-minute meeting between Netanyahu and Levy yesterday, no agreement had been reached and Levy is still deliberating whether to stay in the government or quit.

Sources close to Levy said he is demanding that any settlement reached between himself and Netanyahu be anchored in a cabinet decision "to prevent any more punctures like those that happened with previous promises."

See CRISIS, Page 2

New method found to diagnose tumors

By JUDY SIEGEL

A Weizmann Institute scientist has developed a non-invasive method to distinguish between malignant and benign tumors that may also help establish the prognosis of cancer and monitor therapy's effectiveness.

In the cover story of the July issue of *Nature Medicine*, being published today, Prof. Hadassa Degani and colleagues showed how the method can be used successfully to diagnose breast tumors as an alternative to the invasive technique of taking a biopsy (tissue sample).

This consists of injecting a contrast-enhancing dye-like material into the patient's bloodstream and using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to follow the way this material is absorbed and evacuated by the tumor.

Because the uptake and clearance differ in cancerous and benign tumors, such monitoring makes a diagnosis possible.

A computer shows an image on a computer screen in various colors, reflecting the distribution of the contrast material. The color patterns for malignant and benign growths, wrote Degani, are strikingly different.

"Our approach has the potential to reduce the number of biopsies performed to diagnose tumors," said Degani, who conducts research in the Rehovot institute's biological regulation department.

"Most breast tumors detected by mammography [X-ray scan of the breast] prove to be benign in a biopsy," Degani said, "so that a non-invasive method like MRI could help reduce the rate of unnecessary procedures."

"We have demonstrated that our approach works, but it now needs to be tested and evaluated in a large-scale trial before it can be widely applied in clinical practice," Degani said.

See TUMORS, Page 2

Air force chief: We're losing qualitative edge

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu warned yesterday that Israel is losing its qualitative edge as advanced weapons find their way to Arab armies in the Middle East, and said more resources are needed to widen the gap.

Ben-Eliahu also said that the IAF is capable of quickly dealing with a sudden change in events in the region and warned that "it would be unwise to test us."

"This is the essence of the air force's alertness. The air force is a quick animal and is deployed, ready and poised to act according to a short timetable, so whenever there is a turning point we are ready to give a quick answer," Ben-Eliahu said.

Ben-Eliahu said he had no information on any new acquisitions in the cash-strapped Syrian Air Force, but said other nations in the region were making serious upgrades, including night vision avionics, state-of-the-art technologies, smart weapons, laser-guided missiles and advanced air-to-air

missiles.

Ben-Eliahu steadfastly refused to name the states he was referring to, and when asked about Egypt's Western armament program said that Israel treated Egypt as a peaceful neighbor. It is also widely known that Saudi Arabia has also greatly enhanced its air forces with advanced US equipment.

Speaking in his Tel Aviv headquarters, flanked by a map stretching from the Atlantic to Pakistan, Ben-Eliahu said that the air force had to be prepared for unexpected changes of events in the region.

"There has been no change in the security doctrine of Israel," Ben-Eliahu said, adding that the IAF had to be able to give an immediate answer to any threat. "I see this as the primary task of the IAF, to be prepared for this. This is part of our deterrence," he said.

Ben-Eliahu was speaking on the occasion of Air Force Day which is being marked today and highlighted by a pilot cadets graduation ceremony.

"There was, is and, if we act wisely, will continue to be the relative superiority of the IAF over other air forces. But I have to say there are developments. The region is absorbing new weapons, new Western aircraft, and advanced aircraft. The region is integrating its training with Western nations so that the character of its flying and the quality of its training is improving," Ben-Eliahu said.

"We have to overcome these developments. We are doing so, but it is not easy and demands a lot of energy and work and a great deal of resources."

In January, the IAF will start receiving 24 of the advanced F-15I. Costing about \$100 mil-

lion each, the US-made fighter jet is to significantly increase the IAF's long-range capability. The IAF is also to acquire 15 Black Hawk helicopters in March, Ben-Eliahu said.

He said that the great influx of surface-to-surface missiles into the Middle East was a threat to Israel, but that an appropriate defense is being erected against them. This includes the Arrow missile and Wall radar which is to begin integration into the IAF next year, as well as the offensive capabilities of the IAF to hit the launchers.

"It won't be worth their while to use [surface-to-surface missiles] and if God forbid they do so, then we'll know how to give the appropriate answer," Ben-Eliahu said.

The Air Force commander added that the recommendations made by the Ivry inquiry into the February transport helicopter collision are being implemented, and that the IDF would continue to ferry troops into Lebanon on helicopters.



Eitan Ben-Eliahu (IDF Spokesman)

Labor MKs: Evacuate Hebron's Jews

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and Rim

Labor MKs Uzi Baram and Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, both confidantes of Labor Chairman Ehud Barak, yesterday urged the government to consider evacuating the Jewish settlers from Hebron, warning that the situation in the territories is on the verge of explosion, while the prime minister is not functioning and the government is crippled.

Ben-Eliezer accused the government of not dealing with the crisis and "allowing events on the ground to get out of control."

"I would have evacuated the settlers several years ago, and I say this because I am concerned about their well-being, because I care about Jewish blood," he added.

Baram noted that the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had erred when he failed to evacuate Hebron's Jews after the Machpela Cave massacre.

"The riots in Hebron and Gush Katif are practically bordering on war, and what is the prime minister doing? What's Foreign Minister David Levy doing? They're busy regulating the relations between them. Everyone is debating whether there'll be a kitchen or not," Baram said.

"The state of security is dete-

riorating, the situation is almost an emergency one, and there are security threats, but you don't see the cabinet discussing it or anyone preparing for it," he added, noting that the intifada had also caught the former Likud government by surprise, when it suddenly inflamed the territories.

Baram said it is obvious that neither Netanyahu nor his government can find a solution to the present difficult situation. He said adding National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon to the senior decision-making team will not be conducive to the peace process, since Sharon's views conform with those of the religious bloc and Gush Emunim.

Labor issued a statement yesterday accusing Netanyahu of behaving irresponsibly when instead of fulfilling his job as prime minister by ensuring security in Hebron and the territories and thawing the frozen peace process, he is spending all his time trying to assure the foreign minister that Levy is responsible for foreign affairs.

Metzitz leader MK Yossi Sarid also blasted the government, saying "There's a war on in Hebron, and these guys are pre-occupied stroking each other, and dealing with kitchens and kitchenettes."

James Stewart dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) - James Stewart, the lanky, slow-talking actor who embodied the American values of decency and moral courage in movies such as *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* and *It's a Wonderful Life*, died yesterday, aged 89 at his Beverly Hills home.

A former amateur magician, Stewart conjured up some of the most memorable performances in cinema history, appearing in more than 75 films. Stewart won a best actor Academy Award for *The Philadelphia Story* and was nominated for the Oscar four other times.



580007

NEWS

in brief

Police, homeless clash in Mevasseret Zion

Two policemen were hurt and eight people arrested last night when police clashed with homeless people from Mevasseret Zion...

Five die in road accidents

Four people were killed yesterday when the car in which they were riding made an illegal U-turn and collided with an oncoming Egged bus...

PM orders crackdown on illegal Arab building

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday instructed the police and General Security Service to enforce housing and construction law in eastern Jerusalem...

Woman to be indicted for inflammatory flyer

Police to indict woman for Judea and Samaria police said they would file an indictment today against Jerusalem resident Tatiana Susskind...

Palestinian land dealer reported kidnapped

A Palestinian land dealer was kidnapped from his home last Wednesday and is currently being held by Palestinian security forces...

Fox bites reservists on Golan

A fox attacked and bit seven reservists serving in the southern Golan Heights yesterday. The victims were immediately taken to a clinic in Tiberias...

US hopes security ties improving

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — The US is hopeful that Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation has resumed in earnest, but realizes the test is in the field...

in Hebron. We don't think it contributes to the implementation of agreements. Meanwhile, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the US is "not pleased" with Saudi Arabia's announcement...

Forty-nine years of this is too much. Some countries have to stand up and be leaders and have to be willing to take some risks for peace... We need leadership from other Arab leaders.

Shas, UTJ block social rights bills

By LIAT COLLINS

A parliamentary trick by Shas and United Torah Judaism postponed at the last minute yesterday two bills entitling The Basic Law: Social Rights...

Peretz later condemned the parliamentary maneuver removing the bills from the agenda, saying: "I am disappointed that an entire coalition, led personally by the prime minister, mobilized to torpedo our initiative..."



If you can't stand the heat

Protesters from the Labor Party's young guard play on the theme of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's "kitchen cabinet" (inner security cabinet) opposite the Knesset yesterday.

Husband gets 6 years for plotting to kill wife

By RAINE MARCUS

Haim Afalo, a businessman accused of plotting to kill his estranged wife because she wanted too much money...

Afalo said in his defense that he had no intention of commissioning his wife's murder, but just wished to hurt her. He was, he added, suborned by the undercover agent.

Palestinian businessmen challenge PA to attract investments

By STEVE RODAN

Palestinian business leaders yesterday challenged the Palestinian Authority to streamline bureaucracy and institute a system of law in an effort to attract investment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

and Studies in Nablus. PA chief Yasser Arafat was scheduled to attend the seminar...

Both officials and independent analysts agreed that the Palestinian economy was deteriorating. They brought statistics that demonstrated a sharp drop in per capita income since 1992...

CRISIS

Continued from Page 1

The sources said that at this stage Levy will not be satisfied with oral or even written promises from Netanyahu, and needs the cabinet's approval as a guarantee...

GAZA

Continued from Page 1

Troops also clashed with Palestinian rioters in three areas of Gush Katif yesterday, resulting in the death of a Palestinian youth...

Levy and Netanyahu may meet again today in Tel Aviv to continue discussing the issues they talked about yesterday. At the end of the meeting an official statement was issued saying the conversation was serious, but nothing was settled.

settlers demanded the IDF remove the signposts and prevent the municipality from taking over the area. The IDF Spokesman said the Palestinians were in violation of the agreement...

what they call the forum. What's important is that I am a full partner in the decisions on security and foreign affairs, and in carrying them out...

To Marki Suad
Deepest sympathy on the death of your
Mother
Directors and Staff
The First International Bank

TUMORS

Continued from Page 1

The new method could also tell doctors the prognosis of cancer because it reveals tiny blood vessels that feed the cancer...

aggressiveness, said Degani, whose team consisted of Weizmann Institute doctoral students as well as radiologists from the Hadassah-University Hospital in Rehovot.

emanating from the nuclei of hydrogen atoms that make up water in the tissues are too weak to produce a resolution comparable to that under a microscope.

SHIPS LAUNCH A STATE
THE JEWS' SECRET FLEET
Joseph Hochstetler & Murray Greenfield
Crippling account of the rescue of Holocaust survivors by American volunteers

הכזמן האמרי

IN CONTEXT / DAVID RUDGE

Mordechai's blind alley

For more than 20 years, the terrorist threat from Lebanon has been a bloody thorn in Israel's side.

The lengthy and costly Lebanon war that began in 1982 and ended three years later, as well as three major operations — from Litani in 1978 to Accountability in 1993 and last April's Grapes of Wrath — have only partially eased the problem.

The latest proposal by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai aimed at pulling the IDF out of the security zone, while ensuring peace along the northern border and guaranteeing the rights of south Lebanese who have cooperated with Israel, also appears doomed to failure before it even gets off the ground.

The idea envisages a multinational force, headed by France, which in cooperation with the Lebanese Army and the South Lebanese Army would deploy in south Lebanon and ultimately take over the areas vacated by the SLA.

The concept has won the approval of "Mothers for Peace," campaigning for an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, either under a security arrangement or in the framework of an agreement with Syria and Lebanon.

"We are very happy to hear that there is an alternative to the present situation in south Lebanon," said Masha Sheindorf of Haifa,

whose son has already completed two tours of duty in Lebanon.

"We are also pleased about the apparent change in the attitude of the defense minister towards the Lebanon problem and we support any move that will lead to a situation whereby the IDF will be able to pull out of Lebanon, while ensuring peace and quiet in the region," she added.

Past experience, however, has shown that reaching a diplomatic solution with Lebanon is as difficult as trying to find a military one. This was the case in the 1982 "peace talks" which ended in a watered down security accord in May 1983. Even that agreement was never implemented, primarily because of Syrian opposition.

It is also worth remembering what happened to French and American forces in Lebanon in the past. They were originally called in to oversee the withdrawal of the PLO from Beirut in 1982 and returned afterwards, at the request of the Lebanese government, following the Sabra and Shatilla massacre. They left for good in 1983 shortly after two suicide bomb attacks on the same day — one against a French army barracks in which around 80 soldiers were killed and the other at a US Marines headquarters where over 240 soldiers died.

Mordechai's proposal for another French

involvement in Lebanon was originally reported to have aroused considerable interest in France. Since then, however, the French have been playing down the idea.

The parents are among the few who have welcomed the proposal. The idea has been rejected by most Israeli politicians as impractical and unrealistic. In Lebanon and Syria, it has been greeted with scorn and outright opposition.

Syrian government newspapers yesterday described it as a "dubious exercise" designed to serve Israel's security interests, prevent Hizbullah "resistance" attacks and make it easier for Israel to interfere in Lebanon's affairs and undermine its sovereignty.

"The only possible way this proposal might be accepted by the Lebanese and receive the grudging approval of the Syrians would be if the IDF were to withdraw first, followed by the proposed deployment of the French-led multinational force and the Lebanese Army," said a veteran Lebanese observer.

"The fact, however, that the proposal apparently calls for a trial period before an IDF withdrawal as well as the inclusion of the SLA in the multinational force, which are both unacceptable to Lebanon, makes the idea itself pretty much a non-starter," the observer added.

Missing man found — then arrested

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The mysterious disappearance of 31-year-old Shalom Pitusi of Yavne was solved when he suddenly showed up at the Ayalot police station near Beersheba yesterday morning.

Judea and Samaria Police Spokesman Opher Sivan said last night that Pitusi would remain in custody for 24 hours, adding he is suspected of selling stolen goods, and that Palestinians were also involved.

Pitusi, who had visited Bethlehem with his brother on Monday carrying NIS 250,000 to

purchase electrical equipment, was reported missing by his brother on Tuesday night.

According to Sivan, Pitusi's brother discovered he was missing on Monday night and spent the next 24 hours searching for him. When he failed to find him, he notified the police on Tuesday night.

The police immediately notified their Palestinian counterparts. Sivan added that the search continued throughout the night. At 8 yesterday morning at the police station Pitusi claimed he had been kidnapped by two Palestinian policemen who stole

his money and the electrical goods he purchased.

He claimed that during the night he was held in a building and was released yesterday morning. He allegedly reached Dahariya, south of Hebron, where he called his brother and asked him to pick him up. Pitusi claimed when he arrived at the police station that he had come to inform the police about the incident.

He was questioned at the police station for three hours before being transferred to a police station in the Judea and Samaria district.

Soldiers escape Hizbullah rocket attack

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah gunmen struck at an IDF convoy in the security zone yesterday, setting a troop-carrying truck afire, but causing no casualties. The troops aboard managed to jump clear, although the vehicle itself was badly damaged.

The convoy was en route from the Dlat (Tel Dabshe) position to the Beaufort Castle, when it came under anti-tank rocket fire.

Simultaneously, Hizbullah mortar crews opened fire at a nearby position of the South Lebanese Army, again without causing any injuries or damage. The attacks sparked heavy exchanges, which lasted for several hours.

The incidents yesterday followed a wave of successful IDF initiated operations inside the north of the security zone in the past week, in which at least five Hizbullah gunmen were killed. There were no IDF casualties in any of those incidents.

Meanwhile, dozens of children from Moshav She'ar Yashuv are to be hosted by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai at an IAF base in the South today. Mordechai promised the children the excursion after the helicopter disaster in February, to try and help them overcome the trauma of the tragedy that literally fell on their community out of the sky.

The youngsters will fly to the base in a transport plane and see a parade and a demonstration of IAF warplanes.

Pitusi's mysterious shopping trip to Bethlehem

By JON IMMANUEL

The strange adventure of Shalom Pitusi baffled Bethlehem electrical supplies stores yesterday because they could not understand what profit he would make buying TV sets from them.

"Basically we get our goods from Israeli suppliers. The prices are the same and we have almost the same VAT," said the salesman in Alassasi Home Electronics.

When pressed, however, he said that the difference is that so few Israelis, or Palestinians for that matter, buy anything nowadays in Bethlehem that it is sometimes possible to bargain the price down a little. At least the VAT is negotiable, which is not collected in the same punctilious manner by Palestinian Authority tax men as it is from Arab Jerusalem merchants by Israeli tax collectors. Soldiers at the Gilo checkpoint who could check for contraband goods do not do so. The Oslo accords compelled the PA to establish similar VAT levels to discourage smuggling.

But anybody who bought in Bethlehem would be making a big mistake, said Vardi Cohen, who sells similar equipment in Talpiot, three kilometers away on the other side of the checkpoint. "Could you rely on their warranty?" he asked.

That's a risk that Pitusi evidently thought worth taking, along with the NIS 250,000 he said he carried with

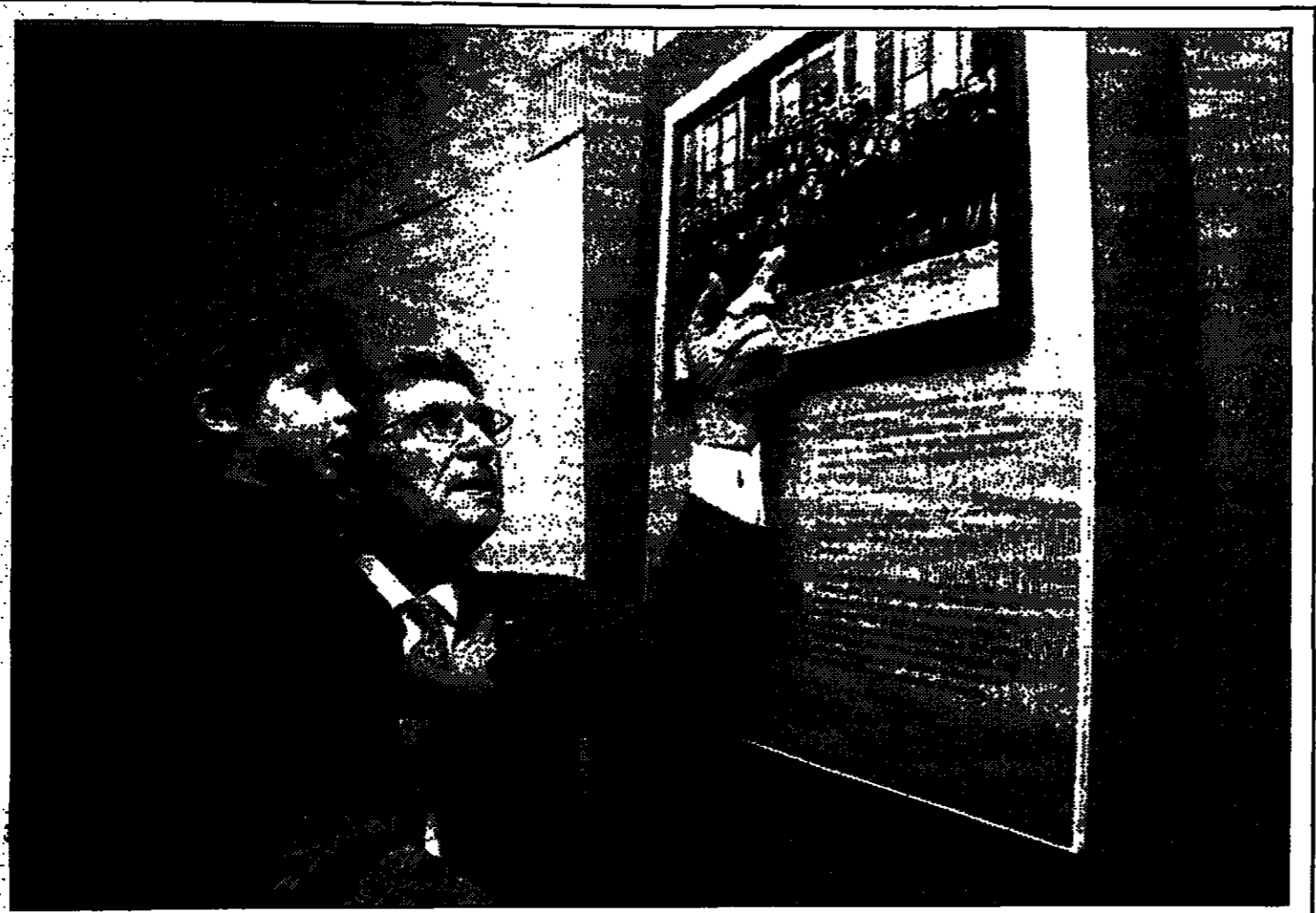
him, when he was apparently robbed by two policemen. Roughly translated that could buy 50 stereo systems, 40 TVs, a dozen food processors and three refrigerators.

When you buy in that kind of bulk the you don't buy retail, as a Bethlehem hotel owner says. "I buy all my electrical equipment, bed sheets, cookers and plugs in Tel Aviv. First of all it's either made in Israel or comes through Israel. Second, I cut out the Palestinian middle man who brings it to Bethlehem. If I was buying a single small radio I might buy it here," he said.

The equipment in the shops includes top Japanese stereos and TVs, German coffeemakers, French food processors and American refrigerators, but moving them has been a problem in recent months, the Bethlehem salesman admits.

The economy is in a tailspin and unemployment is soaring to Gaza levels. The hotel owner reported that "10 to 15 people came into my hotel today asking if I had any jobs. This has been going on for two or three months. Six months ago only two to four a day came looking for jobs."

Times have changed. "Long before the intifada we saw Israelis here buying electrical goods" and other things, and until just before the intifada they would come, eat and drink," he said. But only an adventurer like Pitusi comes looking for a steal whose price turned out to be far higher than he bargained for.



A small Jewish world
US philanthropist Aaron Ziegelman shows his grandson Itai pictures from Luboml in Poland in a new exhibition called 'A small Jewish world' at Yad Vashem yesterday. Ziegelman, who was born in Luboml, organized the exhibition of the Jewish community there, most of which was destroyed during the Holocaust. (Isaac Harari)

AT THE KNESSET / LIAT COLLINS

Labor, Meretz file further no-confidence motions

Meretz and Labor have filed motions of no-confidence in the prime minister on the grounds he is too busy with the coalition crisis to deal with the disturbances in the territories. "Because of a childish argument over the size of [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's kitchen, we'll all end up going down into shelters," said Labor whip Ra'anan Cohen.

Freedom of information
The freedom of information bill passed its first reading in the Knesset late Tuesday. Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, who presented the bill, called it "a revolution in the relations between the state authorities and the individual." Under the law, if passed, a citizen would have the right to access information on the activities and regulations of public authorities, except when this would be a security risk, a threat to privacy, or might interfere with law enforcement.

Demolition orders
The Knesset Interior Committee, chaired by Salah Tarif (Labor), yesterday approved a bill for first reading by Italeh a-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) under which demolition orders would not be issued against

homes in Beduin settlements of at least 20 buildings, which have been at the same site for at least five years, unless the court is sure people living in the home have an alternative.

Opposition rights
The Knesset yesterday passed the preliminary reading of a bill by MK Nissim Zivili that would grant certain rights to the leader of the oppo-

sition. Under the bill, the prime minister would be obliged to regularly meet with and update the leader of the opposition once a month and the opposition leader would have the right to make a statement in the Knesset plenum whenever he wants.

Even if the bill passes all further readings, it will not come into effect until the next Knesset.

Religious freedom
MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) is calling for an urgent meeting of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women to discuss the dismissal of a senior Religious Affairs Ministry official for authorizing the appointment of three women to the Efrat Religious Council. The official, Yehiel Lagim, cooperated with Efrat Mayor Shlomo Riskin to get the women appointed.

Investigating incitement
The Knesset Law Committee will ask the attorney-general to establish definite criteria for opening investigations into allegations of incitement, said committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party).

Broadcast discrimination
Labor's spokesman in the Knesset, Yitzhak Rabyhiye, has complained to the head of Israel Radio, Amnon Nadav, the head of Channel 1's news department, Rafik Halabi, and the director of the Second Television and Radio Authority, Nahman Shai, saying the opposition is discriminated against in their broadcasts. He presented figures from last week showing the percentage opposition MKs interviewed was 19% compared to 81% from the coalition.

Rabin memorial day
A bill calling for a national memorial day to commemorate Yitzhak Rabin, which passed its first reading last month, was yesterday endorsed by the Knesset Education Committee for second and third (final) readings. Committee chairman Emanuel Zissman (Third Way) said he would try to bring the law for passage before the summer recess at the beginning of August.

Rabin memorial day
The bill, submitted by the Meretz faction, would mark the Hebrew date of Rabin's assassination, Heshvan 12, in several ways, including the lowering of flags on public buildings to half-mast, special activities in schools relating to Rabin's life and stressing the importance of democracy, special mention in the IDF order of the day, and a memorial service at Rabin's grave on Mount

Pennies from Heaven

For forty-eight years, our leaders' pennies have brought heaven on earth to deprived kids throughout the country. From the early days when we collected toys at Hanukkah time to the present when **The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund** is an all-year ongoing way of helping children living in institutions and foster homes. We bring help to these needy kids with extra health care, shoes, toys, educational supplies, sports equipment and all those things that give them the kick-start in life expected by their peers.

There's always a reason for going to kids' holidays, birthdays, achievements and even for just being a kid.

So help us to help them.

Push your contributions today and as the rain brings out the flowers, help us bring a smile to a child's face.

The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91600, Israel
Friends of The Jerusalem Post Fund, 20 East 56th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022, U.S.A.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Department of Assets and Services, Jerusalem

1. The Ministry of Health hereby invites bids for the following tender:
Tender No. 166/97 - Computerized Information System for Public Health Food Services

2. **Period of Contract:**
The entire development period + twelve months warranty with the option to extend for a further seven years.

3. a) The tender documents and further information may be obtained from information or the secretariat of the Department of Assets and Services, 29 Rehov Rivka, 2nd floor, The Ministry of Health, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-568-1221, 568-1384 during regular working hours.
The tender documents will be available from July 6, 1997.
b) The cost of the tender documents is NIS 500 which must be paid in the account of the Department of Assets and Services of the Ministry of Health at the postal bank (account no. 0-03807-9).
c) For further details, contact Rami Cohen, Tel. 02-670-6833, Fax. 02-671-6570, during regular working hours.

4. Bids must be placed in the tenders box at the front desk of the offices of the Ministry of Health, 29 Rehov Rivka, 2nd floor, Jerusalem, by August 18, 1997, at 12 noon.

5. a) Questions or objections should be sent in writing to the Ministry of Health, 4 Rehov Shalom Yehuda, Jerusalem (Fax. 02-671-5570) by July 17, 1997 (Tel. 02-670-6833).
b) Bidders who do not do so shall be considered as having consented to the terms of the tender (Tel. 02-670-6833)

6. **Basic Conditions for Submitting Bids:**
a) A valid statement of turnover from an accountant for the year 1996, in compliance with the Income Tax Regulations, must be submitted.
b) The sum of NIS 500 must be paid for the tender documents. This sum will not be returned.
c) Suppliers must be a legally incorporated entity, with at least five years' experience in providing services of the kind described in the tender documents, who have at least 20 full-time employees, and whose turnover for 1996 was at least NIS 5 million, as certified by an accountant. Israeli subsidiaries, whose holding company complies with the above-mentioned conditions and is guaranteeing the bid, are eligible to submit bids.
d) Proof of being a licensed trader for VAT purposes and of keeping account books must be attached to the bid.
e) An index-linked bank guarantee for 10% of the amount of the bid, valid for 120 days from the date on which the tender closes, must be attached.
f) All bidders must attend a meeting of suppliers at 9:30 a.m. on July 31, 1997, at the Ministry of Health, 4 Rehov Shalom Yehuda, Talpiot, Jerusalem, in the meeting room on the first floor.
g) The main supplier must be a software company whose employees will develop and/or adapt the main system and the applications, as explained in the tender documents.

7. The Ministry of Health reserves the right to conduct negotiations with the most suitable bidders before deciding on the winner, in accordance with Clause 7 of the Tender Regulations.

8. The Ministry is entitled to give preference to bidders who have more experience in providing the services required by this tender, and whose staff is more skilled.

9. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest bid, any part of it or any bid at all, or to order the entire project from one bidder. The Ministry is entitled to give preference to experienced bidders as explained in the tender documents, and to cancel, expand or reduce the scope of the tender because of budgetary and/or administrative and/or organizational reasons.

10. Tender Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation) - 1995 will apply if appropriate.

Some inspiration from Uncle Sam

Across the world anti-tobacco activists face tough hurdles

By PETER ROBINSON

LONDON (Bloomberg) — As anti-smoking advocates throughout the world seek to capitalize on the US tobacco industry's landmark settlement of health claims, even those leading the fight warn that they face tough hurdles.

Aside from a more relaxed attitude toward smoking at a cultural level, campaigners face legal systems far less amenable to personal-injury claims. And since governments such as those in Japan and Spain still own their largest tobacco companies and depend on revenue from steep tobacco taxes, some nations will be unwilling to support litigation.

"It's going to be very difficult; I don't think anybody disagrees with that," said Martyn Day, a British lawyer representing 47 lung cancer sufferers in the most closely watched suit against cigarette makers outside the US.

Day today asked Britain's High Court to appoint a judge to hear their case against the nation's largest cigarette makers, Gallaher Group Plc and Imperial Tobacco Plc.

It's the first group action of its kind in Britain and one of only a handful of lawsuits against tobacco companies outside the US. A Paris lawyer last year sued France's Seita SA on behalf of two cancer-stricken smokers. Japan Tobacco Inc. faces a suit from five smokers who accuse the government-owned company of hooking them on an addictive product.

Legal experts give the cases little chance of success against the traditional industry defense — even more accepted in courts outside the US — that individuals bear responsibility for their own actions.

"If you want to go bungee jumping, you assume the risk — that's been the main defense and it's been a very effective stopper," said Julian Fulbrook, a lecturer in personal injury law at the London School of Economics.

Investors have nevertheless been jittery at the prospect of a more active anti-smoking movement in Europe and Asia. Smokers there are regarded as the industry's engine of growth after the collapse of Communism opened nations like Russia and China to foreign investors and effectively tripled the size of the global cigarette market.

Shares in Gallaher, the UK



(Brian Hendler)

maker of Benson & Hedges spun off from American Brands Inc. this year, have fallen 7 percent since the settlement. Imperial Tobacco's stock has dropped 4.4 percent and Japan Tobacco is down 3.5 percent.

"We have to assume that other markets are going to become more litigious as time goes by," said Paul Preston, an industry analyst with SGST Securities in London. "Having said that, we still don't believe the scale is going to be anywhere near what's going on in the US."

Day, a senior partner with London law firm Leigh, Day & Co., contends the US settlement is just the beginning of an escalation in the industry's liabilities. His suit uses internal documents unearthed in hundreds of US cases to try to prove the tobacco companies knew tar was carcinogenic in the 1950s and did nothing to lower the levels.

"The implications of the settlement go worldwide and I think it's

highly likely that we will see a plethora of actions in Europe and the rest of the world," Day said. Still, he warned that it could take years before the movement gathers steam.

Part of the problem is cultural, as anyone who's visited a smoky cafe in Paris or Madrid can attest. About four in 10 European adults are smokers compared with 25 for every 10 US adults.

In Japan, meanwhile, cigarette vending machines still line the hallways of the Health and Welfare Ministry and tobacco advertising is permitted on late-night television.

Punitive damages are also more limited in non-US courts, making it more difficult for one ruling to send a strong message. In the US, a \$750,000 award last year against the Brown & Williamson unit of BAT Industries Plc sent shares plunging and helped convince the industry to accept the \$368.5 billion settlement with 40 states suing to recover the costs of treat-

ing smokers. Day is seeking just 50,000 pounds in damages for each smoker, while plaintiffs in the case against Japan Tobacco are seeking about \$9,300 each.

Governments won't necessarily be eager backers of tough penalties either. While Britain is seeking to ban print as well as television advertising, other nations such as France and Spain have long had such bans in place with little appreciable effect on consumption.

Italy, Japan and Spain still own their largest tobacco companies and a majority of France's Seita was only recently sold to investors, making those governments unwilling to pursue themselves in the courts.

The European Union and many other nations also depend on revenue from tobacco taxes, long much higher than those in the US. Levies make up at least 67 percent of a pack's price in every EU country, according to Salomon

Brothers Inc., compared with 32 percent in the US.

In the UK, tobacco taxes raise about \$13b, a year compared with costs of about \$1b. to treat smoking-related diseases, according to the British Medical Association.

"A quite tenable economic argument can be made that the tobacco industry actually contributes more than the health care costs," said Fulbrook, the lecturer at the London School of Economics.

That doesn't bode well for anti-tobacco litigation, which only broke through in the US once states added their clout to the individual personal injury suits that tobacco companies had won with near-perfect regularity since the 1960s.

"Even in the US, plaintiffs have yet to have little success against the tobacco industry," said Jonathan Fell, an analyst with Merrill Lynch & Co. "There was the settlement, but that didn't come in court."

Yale trains women for political office

By MATTHEW LEVINE

NEVA HAVEN (Reuters) — If there is a potential Margaret Thatcher anywhere, it may be in the United States. A unique program at Yale University is designed to bring her to life.

For the past few years, the Women's Campaign School has drawn dozens of aspiring women politicians from around the globe, teaching them how to overcome the barriers that have traditionally kept them from holding political office.

"Women have made great strides in the business world but when we think about the voice of women in politics, we're still a long way off," said the school's director, Susan A. Davis.

The school's program includes seminars, workshops and a hands-on experience in running a political campaign. The participants are 750.

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'Blowing the Great Shofar,' a sculpture by Georges Weil, was recently installed in Gellelleje to pay tribute to the courage of residents of this Danish village.

Memorial to decency

A renowned sculptor honors a small Danish fishing village for its Holocaust rescue operation, Sue Fishkoff reports

Only two men in a tiny village in Denmark are still alive to tell how they and other fishermen performed a miracle more than half a century ago: They rescued 1,700 Jewish refugees from Nazi-occupied Denmark, secretly rowing them across the North Sea to freedom in Sweden.

When Vienna-born artist Georges Weil visited the village of Gellelleje, on the northern coast of Denmark, 35 years ago with the Danish woman he would later marry, he met some of the fishermen who had taken part in the undercover seafaring operation and was struck to the core by their tale.

"The entire Jewish population of the area gathered in private homes," he relates. "Some fishing families housed 10 or more Jewish families. They would wait there until the arrangements for boats were made, and then they'd go out in the middle of the night."

The only local Jews captured were 90 refugees hiding on a church roof. A villager turned them in to the Gestapo and they were deported to Theresienstadt. Even there, Weil relates, they were protected by the Danish government and the Danish contingent of the Red Cross who pressed for them to be released before the end of the war—a remarkable achievement.

"In spite of real and great personal danger, ordinary Danes risked their lives and succeeded in rescuing almost the whole Jewish community from certain torture and death," he marvels. "Ordinary Danes became extraordinary human beings. They gave life to the lost. They brought some hope to human-

ity. In a world damned by its silence, one little powerless country, invaded by the Germans, said 'no' to the murder of its Jewish citizens."

Weil pledged that someday he would memorialize this magnificent story. The years passed, he built his career as an artist, moved to Israel, and suddenly the time seemed ripe to complete the project he had first contemplated more than three decades earlier.

Weil decided to recast one of his favorite sculptures, "Blowing the Great Shofar," showing a Jewish man in biblical garb, throwing his head back in joy and triumph as he blows on the shofar that heralds redemption for the Jewish people. He cast an edition of six and shipped one to Denmark. The installation was funded jointly by Weil and business tycoon Yuli Ofer.

At the installation ceremony recently in Gellelleje, 50 km. north of Copenhagen, the two surviving fishermen were guests of honor. The event was heavily covered by the Danish media, Weil notes with satisfaction.

"Good, they should talk about it," he says.

"The idea was to make a very bold Jewish statement. There should be a Jewish presence in every place where history has been good or bad to us."

Weil hopes to install one of the

other castings in Berlin, and a third outside the gates of Auschwitz. He says he has been negotiating with the Polish authorities about the Auschwitz installation, and was "very close" to obtaining their agreement a few years ago, before plans to build a shopping center on the spot brought new infamy to the former concentration camp.

"There have been so many attempts to de-Judaize Auschwitz, I feel it's important to have something Jewish there," he says.

WEIL'S SENSE of mission in installing memorials in Denmark, Germany and Poland is totally in character. As an infant, he fled his native Austria with his family to England, just ahead of the Nazi Anschluss. He grew up in a religiously observant home and turned to Jewish themes early in his artistic career, although never exclusively.

In 1956, when he was just 17, Weil opened his own jewelry design and manufacturing studio in London. At 18, he carved a bust of David Ben-Gurion, displayed today in the Israel Museum.

By 21, Weil was an international sensation. His one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces, in diamonds and precious metals, were being displayed together with creations by Pablo Picasso and Jean Cocteau.

In 1979, he turned to sculpture and painting full-time. He has had many exhibitions around the world, and his works are on display at the British Museum in London, the Antwerp Museum in Belgium, the Royal Glasgow Museum in Scotland, and at Yad Vashem and the Israel Museum.

In 1989, at the height of his career, Weil fulfilled a lifelong dream and immigrated to Israel, where he bought a home in Herzliya Pituh. In 1992, he installed three 2.5-meter-high bronze dancers in the lobby of the Princess Hotel in Eilat, and held his last major exhibition, at the Herzliya Museum.

Then, for personal reasons, he virtually disappeared from the public eye, until the Gellelleje installation.

Today, Weil can hardly afford to buy back the high-priced jewelry he made early in his career. He did manage, 12 years ago, to buy back the second of two bronze castings he made of the 1956 Ben-Gurion bust.

To create the mold, he used more than 100 photographs of Ben-Gurion sent to him by the Israeli Embassy in London. He had no money to pay for casting more than two busts in bronze. Even then, his grandfather had to foot the bill. The mold disintegrated

five or six years later, and no more castings could be made. The second bust stands today in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

In 1973, the by-now renowned Weil was commissioned to sculpt busts of both Ben-Gurion and Moshe Dayan. He spent two days with Ben-Gurion in his Tel Aviv home, and a few more days in Dayan's office on Ibn Gvirol Street.

Unfortunately, the sketchbooks he used were later stolen from his room at a Herzliya hotel, and the busts were never completed.

TODAY, WEIL spends his workdays painting and sculpting in his basement studio. He has been working for the past four years on a series of large-canvas works titled "Tallim" (prayer shawls), which utilize pieces of metal and black masking tape in addition to paint. He has completed 150 paintings in the series, and says he's not selling any of them, although he has given some away.

"I'm making them only to please myself," he says, although he adds he'd love to see them hanging together one day in an exhibition.

At the entrance to his studio stands the prototype for a massive "Aliya Hanukkiya" he would like to install in Jerusalem to mark the nation's 50th anniversary next year. It's a reverse image of the Arch of Titus. Instead of Roman soldiers carrying the menorah of defeated Judea out of the Temple, it depicts jubilant Jews in biblical dress carrying the menorah back to Jerusalem.

As Weil puts it, "The ingathering of the exiles is a very real concept to me."

Not Page One

Jews and zoos

By Sam Orbaum

That's not lemon sherbet in Beverly Burge's freezer. It's missing for a similar reason: Arabs used to stoop them as "soul stealers."

There was a crazy rumor around town some time ago that the zoo might acquire that greatest of all zoo spectacles, the giant panda. "The rumor was true," Beverly says. "Shoul Eisenberg wanted to do it, but we begged him not to. Sure, it would be good for the zoo, in terms of ticket sales and prestige. But it's not good for the pandas. They should be left where they are."

It's a lucrative business for the Chinese, this Rent-a-Panda: they lease the animals for about \$1 million a year.

Is Beverly squeamish about feeding animals to animals? "I have no qualms about it—look, you can't feed a lion to a lion. Anyway, we do very little live-feeding, and never in the public's view. The pythons get live rabbits we raise for the purpose, and rats we get from labs. Sometimes the meerkats get live chicks. Mostly, carnivores are taught to eat dead meat."

Which brings up the question you've all been wondering: does the zoo kitchen have kosher supervision? The answer, believe it or not, is

I've been bitten by parrots, iguanas, all the primates, and the zookeeper.

Over there's a depressed wallaby we don't know what to do with. This cage is sort of a retirement home for aged lemurs. That? Oh, he's having surgery. Castration. This is a boxful of barn owls brought to us from the wild. And as you can see, we're up to our eyeballs in baby kestrels."

On a patch of lawn outside her clinic is a chintzy-looking plastic swan. But it's not plastic. "Broke its leg in a fight," says Beverly. "C'mere, I'll show you the x-rays."

Spend a couple of hours with her and you get the feeling she'd climb into the lions' den to boost their protein levels. She's already been chewed by just about everything else. "I've been bitten by parrots, iguanas, all the primates, snakes, mad swans, wallabies and the head zookeeper. Oh, and I was scratched by a leopard." She shrugs off an admiring oob: "It's nothing. Like cutting your hand if you're a dishwasher. Or developing flat feet if you're a cop."

She forgives any animal its savage ways, except for one: the ticket-buying genus that thinks obnoxious behavior is permitted with the price of admission.

"We have a type of visitor who has a lot to learn," says the California native. "Some Israelis don't think they lack education. There are too many stories of idiots who behave like ... well, if only they would behave like animals."

Visitors pelt them with garbage, including morons who've launched bottles at the lions (one of them was badly hurt). "A toucan died because someone fed it an avocado, which is extremely toxic." Cassie, the gentle old cassowary, was once grabbed by the neck and throttled.

The public pays for the bad behavior of a few, in ways it does not realize. Management will not acquire certain animals that won't tolerate, shall we say, "interactive spectatorship." Coveted koalas, for instance, are too sensitive. Wild boars, native to Israel and "remarkably intelligent," were pulled from the exhibit because haredim threw rocks at

The Jerusalem Post
hort & sharp
SUSAN BELLOS
I know what 'feminine' means: 1997 Israel means truly the 1950s mind

Cairo to fine drivers for excessive honking

By LOUIS MEXLER

Steering his black-and-white taxi through Cairo's dense downtown traffic, Mohammed Hassan beeps his horn 20 times in just three minutes. That could cost him a week's pay under a promised noise crackdown.

Egypt's government says it must quiet the crowded, noisy chaos that is Cairo—but its decision to fine drivers threatens to create more uproar.

"How are we going to move if we don't use the horn?" Hassan demands, raising his voice above the French music blaring on his radio.

The government started a campaign last month to warn Egyptians of the dangers of noise pollution and soften them up for what it says comes later: fines from traffic police and the newly created environmental police.

"Noise has become the problem and illness of the era," a newspaper advertisement from the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency tells readers.

The campaign is aimed at reducing the maddening honking that is a near constant on Cairo streets, the clanging at construction sites and the blare of mosque loudspeakers that broadcast the Islamic call to prayer five times a day—sometimes so loudly they shake the windows of nearby apartments.

Previous efforts have failed, and the government is taking a gradual approach this time.

"Some people take for granted that it is noisy," said the head of the environmental agency, Salah Hafez. "We have to explain to people that noise can

hurt them, hurt their children and make them less productive."

Monitoring noise at construction sites is likely to be the easiest task, and environmental groups hope to have the cooperation of clergy in cutting down on noise from mosques.

Most difficult will be cracking down on the major source: drivers honking their horns.

As a first step, the government has banned the import of the loudest type of horns. Later, it plans to introduce a device that silences horns after a short beep.

But changing drivers' habits may prove difficult in Cairo, where drivers use their horns with deafening regularity as they negotiate the narrow, overcrowded streets in the city of 15 million.

Motorists beep to warn pedestrians and fellow drivers that they are about to run a traffic light. Taxi drivers hit their horns to attract riders. Friendly Cairenes beep at acquaintances just to say hello. The result: a cacophony of honking that in some neighborhoods never ends.

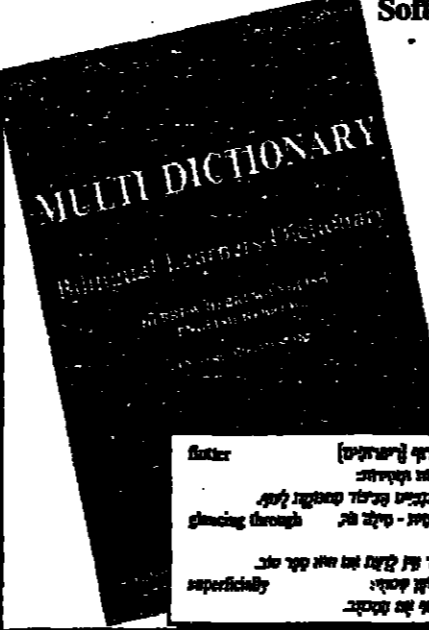
Later this year, authorities will start handing out \$100 (NIS 105) fines for horn abusers—probably starting with those who do their beeping near hospitals or in the very early morning, Hafez said.

Minibus driver Said Rashad is incredulous at the thought of giving up his horn, and at the government's absurdity in even asking.

The horn is "something that is very important, just like the brakes," Rashad said. "If you can't get rid of the brakes, you can't get rid of the horn." (AP)

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TRAVEL

By SUE FISHKOFF

Old Soviet statues don't die. They just get put out to pasture.

At least, that's what Hungary did with the monumental bronze and stone relics of its former socialist regime. The four-meter-tall Lenin that used to gaze down approvingly on Budapest's May Day parades, the flag-waving Red Army soldier that stood on Liberation Monument, Marx, Engels, Bela Kun and his cronies, were all torn down from their pedestals after 1991 and carted away to Stame Park, an outdoor museum 15 minutes away from Budapest's city center.

Although visitors may be tempted to snicker at the ignominy of these statues' fate, the park — unique in Eastern Europe — is not meant as a joke. Architect Akos Eleod designed it as a careful critique of the newly overthrown communist ideology, eschewing "tendentious, extreme or realistic methods of construction, as a number of people were expecting," which would lead him, he writes in the museum's brochure, "to do nothing more than construct my own antipropaganda park from these propagandist statues, following the same thought patterns and prescriptions of dictatorship that erected these statues in the first place."

Still, there's something terribly funny — and sadly terrible — about the open-air museum's haphazard display of silent, tarnished heroes.

Walking through the streets of Budapest today, it's hard to imagine that the city tore down its Iron Curtain just seven years ago. Hardly any physical vestige of the former regime remains. But then, since 1956, the Soviet grip on Hungary was not as tight as on the other countries of the Eastern Bloc. They didn't call it "goulash socialism" for nothing.

manship only adds to the evening's enjoyment. The roast goose liver in wild berry sauce is exquisite, and helps mask the bite of the final bill, which should come to about \$75 per person. What happened to socialist prices?

To help work off that goose fat, spend a few hours in one of more than 1,000 medicinal hot springs scattered throughout the country. Hungary's hot springs were known 2,000 years ago in Roman times, when centurions would soak their aching shins in the military garrison of Aquincum, just outside Budapest.

During the Turkish occupation of the 16th and 17th centuries, many domed-roof spas were built to contain the country's curative thermal waters. The most famous of the capital's spas is probably the turn-of-the-century Gellert Baths, the oldest hotel spa, located in an Art Nouveau hotel at the foot of Gellert Hill.

The springs supplying the baths are so hot they were called Purgatory when first discovered 2,000 years ago. The name was later changed to "Bath of the Virgins," and something remains of that erotic suggestion today. Men and women bathe naked in separate hot-water pools, drifting lazily past intricate mosaics and rococo statues, or enjoying the even hotter gushes of water issuing from numerous animal-head fountains. The whole experience costs only \$4, and for an additional \$3 a bored young woman will hose off a plastic sheet and give you an old-fashioned, no-nonsense rubdown.

Unfortunately, we visitors were unable to book mud baths, herbal wraps, or any of a host of other treatments because we lacked, as a white-clad attendant briskly informed us, the all-important "doctor's description." Be sure to get one before you go, and bring your own soap.

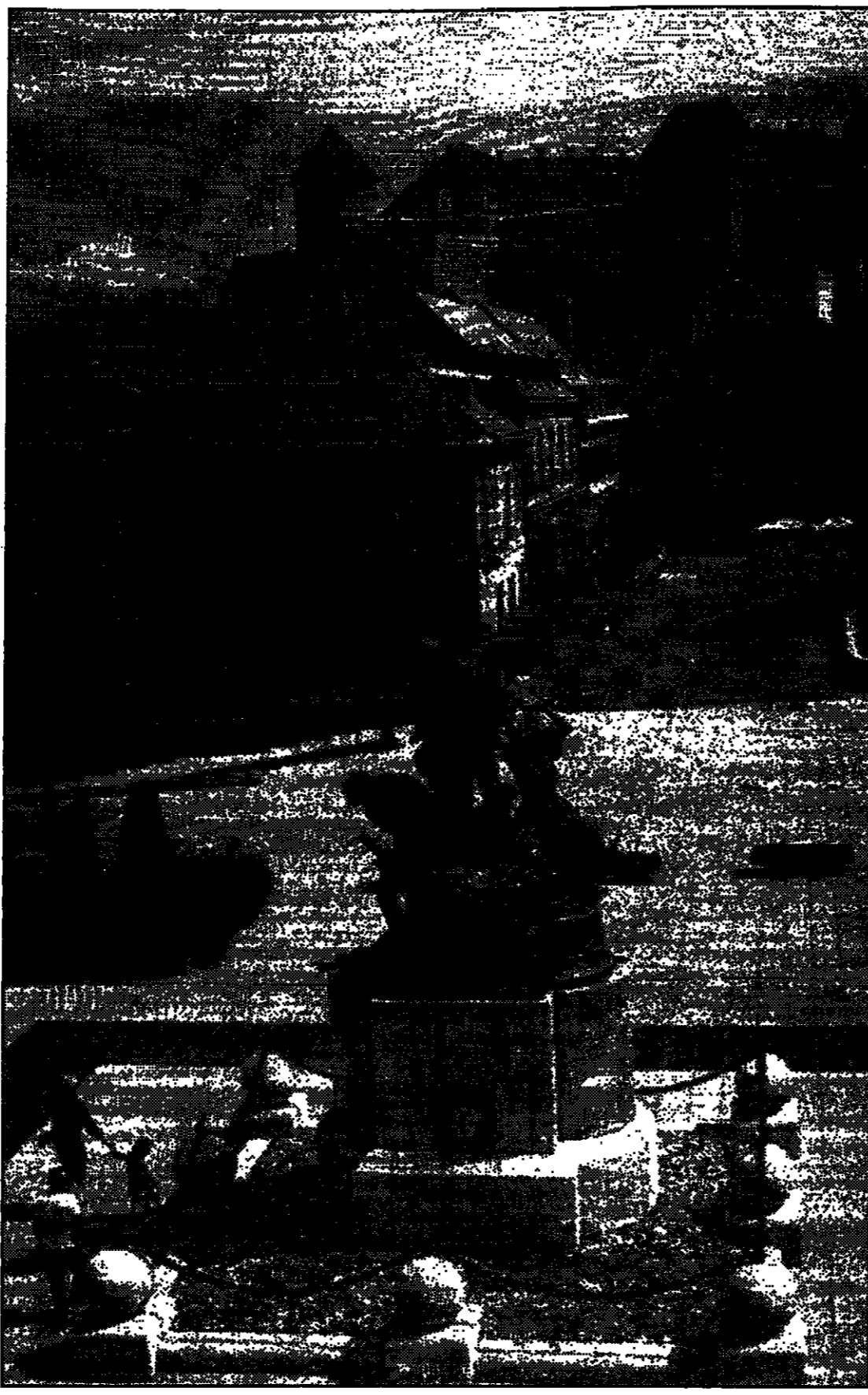
SPEAKING OF goulash, Hungary is not a place for vegetarians. Roast goose liver, wild boar with mustard, thick bean-and-ham stews, skewered venison with flaming sour-cherry sauce... you can get by without these mouth-watering, cholesterol-ridden delicacies, but then, why not go to Leeds or Vilna for your vacation, instead of subjecting yourself to such culinary temptation? It's a shame to eat lettuce in Budapest.

One of the best places not to eat lettuce in Budapest is the elegant Alabardos restaurant, located in a restored medieval palace in the city's historic Buda Castle District. The waiters and wine stewards seem as excited about the food as the patrons, and their genial show-

TO EXPERIENCE the real Hungary, get out of Budapest and head for the countryside, where eight million of the country's 10 million citizens reside. One lovely side trip is to Eger, a medieval walled city of 60,000 residents in northeastern Hungary, a 90-minute drive from Budapest in a fertile valley between the Matra mountains and the Bukk Range.

Eger was settled more than 1,000 years ago, and monuments to every period it has passed through still stand. A breathtaking view of the city can be had from the hilltop Eger Castle, built in the mid-13th century by King Bela IV. Its ruins were built upon over the centuries, and include an extensive series of 16th-century

A tourist's goulash



Eger, Hungary: The city's walls were constructed by the same Italian engineers who built part of the walls of Jerusalem's Old City.

catcombs snaking for kilometers beneath the castle walls. Apparently these catacombs, which can be visited with a guide, were built by a team of Italian engineers who later built part of the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. We couldn't confirm this, but it's a good story anyway.

During the siege of Eger in 1552, 2,000 Hungarian defenders held out against 80,000 Turkish

invaders in a heroic resistance effort spearheaded by the local women, who poured boiling tar on Turks attempting to scale the castle walls and taunted the enemy by raising their skirts at them in disdain. The story of this legendary siege is one of the first books read by Hungarian schoolchildren and is a much-beloved tale.

Visitors can pay their respects to the castle's defenders in a room dedicated to their memory. Also open to the public is a display of medieval instruments of torture, including graphic sketches of how they were used to extract confessions from their hapless victims. That room, thank goodness, was closed the day of our visit.

Eger has been an important Catholic center since the reign of Saint Stephen, Hungary's first Christian ruler who ascended the throne almost a millennium ago. The city has 16 Catholic churches, 12 of which functioned continuously during the communist regime.

Eger is also located in the heart of the Jewish area of northeastern Hungary, a region whose populous Hassidic communities were virtually wiped out during the Holocaust. The city's three historic synagogues are situated on the same central block, in various stages of ruin.

The oldest one has only a plaque to mark its memory. The city's first four-star hotel will open soon on the spot.

A second synagogue, dating back to the 18th century, is boarded up and protected behind a locked iron gate, waiting for a donor to restore it to its former splendor.

The third synagogue, a bright-yellow 18th-century building with white-framed windows, is now a furniture and textiles shop. The building was given over to the shop's owners eight years ago, when Hungary began its campaign of restoring property destroyed during World War II or that had fallen into disrepair under the communist regime. In return, the new owners pledged to restore the building completely, a pledge they have kept.

It's an odd feeling to walk around inside and see Turkish carpets for sale, hanging from the women's balcony. A couch is displayed on the former *bima*. But at least the building hasn't been torn down, and visitors who come to photograph the former shul aren't shooed away by the shop clerks.

In addition to just walking around the picturesque winding streets of the old quarter of Eger, enjoying the many beautiful Baroque buildings, visitors will want to take a stroll to the "valley of the beautiful women" on the city's outskirts. The "valley" is really a collection of some 250 private wine cellars dug into the side of a cliff, each operated by an individual family that makes its own wine for sale to the public.

We took a peek inside Farikas Ferenc's cellar, a hole-in-the-wall operation located at 3 Disznosor Street at the valley's entrance. Mr. Ferenc makes a mean *bukovir* (bull's blood), the heavy red wine for which Hungary is famed. For about two dollars, he'll siphon out a couple of liters for you to carry away in a plastic bottle, to be enjoyed later with a chunk of spicy Hungarian salami.

ON THE way back to Budapest, make a detour due north to the storybook village of Holloko, an hour's drive from the capital in the Cserhat hills. Holloko is a village of less than 500 residents that has maintained its old whitewashed, mud-walled homes and its folkloric traditions, native to the little-known Paloc people of northern Hungary. In 1987, Holloko became the first Hungarian village to be added to UNESCO's world cultural heritage list.

The old quarter of Holloko is just two streets long, including a tiny 15th-century wooden-spired church. The church, along with most of the homes, had to be almost completely rebuilt after a fire in 1909, but the rebuilding was carried out by the original families according to their original designs.

Today, an active, if small, cultural committee struggles to preserve the village's unique lifestyle. The famed a cappella Holloko women's choir, which performs in its native dress for visitors and locals alike, can't persuade any young women to join its ranks. The population is shrinking, and no babies have been born for the past two years. The village is offering special tour programs that include instruction in weaving, pottery-making and honeycake-decorating, but whether that will be enough to save Holloko from the wrecking ball remains to be seen.

Malev Hungarian Airlines flies to Budapest five times a week, and offers special deals during the low season and during Budapest's Spring Festival, held this year in March. The city will hold its annual international wine festival this September 2 to 7, and a host of other cultural activities throughout the year as Hungary prepares for its 1,000th birthday party celebration, set for the year 2000.

The writer was a guest of the Hungarian National Tourist Board and Malev Hungarian Airlines.

CAVEAT EMPTOR!

Credit slips where credit's due

By RUTHIE BLUM

Beware of losing credit slips; they may as well be cash.

Last August, S.Z. entered "Ofnat Canaan" on Kibbutz Tzora and purchased a suit for NIS 514. Upon arriving home, she discovered that the suit was defective.

Back she went to the kibbutz boutique to return the garment. After what she described as "much arguing" between her and the shop manager, an agreement was reached whereby instead of a refund, she would be given a credit slip ("zikui") for the cost of the suit which she had paid for by credit card.

Since that day, S.Z. has visited Ofnat Canaan many times to try and find something to buy with her credit slip. All to no avail. Thus far, she has not been able to find an article of clothing she likes.

One day, as she was about to make another trip to the kibbutz, she discovered that she had misplaced the credit slip. Nevertheless, she went to the boutique to explain her predicament.

There, she was informed in no uncertain terms that there was nothing that could be done about a lost credit slip. Without it, she was told, she would not be able to utilize her credit.

S.Z. was furious. After all, she argued, the purchase was made with a Visa card. As such, there must be a record of the sale. In fact, proof of her sale was located by the shop manager. However, no evidence of credit being given was listed. "Too bad, lady," was the response. "You're out of luck."

Since then, management of the shop has changed hands. Ofnat Canaan is now run by Gadi Gal. Gal was aware of the case of the missing credit slip. He apologized for any rudeness S.Z. might have encountered by the previous manager, and said that his whole philosophy is based on keeping customers happy. "A satisfied customer will come back and shop here," he said.

But then he explained why he cannot give S.Z. credit without the little piece of paper: There is no way to

check whether a credit slip has been utilized. "What if someone finds her lost slip, and comes in to take merchandise?" he asked rhetorically.

"Unlike with a check or a credit card, a credit slip has no identifying features. In this sense, it is just like cash," he stressed.

According to Gal, Ofnat Canaan does large volumes of business, particularly on Shabbat, when people from all over the country come to shop. Checks are not accepted, except from members of the "regular customers' club."

"However," he added, "I do allow customers an unlimited period in which to exchange credit for merchandise, a fact which is obvious, in view of the amount of time which S.Z. has held her credit."

Hopefully, S.Z. will find her slip, and not be out five hundred shekels. If and when she does, I would advise her to find something to buy fast — before she ends up losing the slip again. The rest of us should take heed.

According to the Sales Law, S.Z. could have asked for a refund when the cause of her returning the garment was a defect in the merchandise. Her reason for not doing so was understandable: Due to the high cost of the garment, Ofnat Canaan would not have given her a cash refund on the spot. The money would have been sent at a later date, according to Gal, who claimed that only smaller amounts of cash can be returned on the spot.

Gal also explained that Ofnat Canaan does not manufacture the clothing it sells (with the exception of certain silk-screen printed T-shirts). And he claimed that at least twice a month, goods are returned or exchanged. As a result, he cannot keep track of every credit slip.

Another caveat we might learn from the unfortunate tale of S.Z., is to examine all items we buy very carefully. Had S.Z. done so at the time of her purchase, she probably would have discovered the defect before leaving the shop.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

FLAIR

Suit yourself

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

One of the reasons that American army personnel did so well in capturing the attention of British women during World War II was that they looked so good in their uniforms.

True, we're taught that clothes do not make the man. And who doesn't chuckle over that story of George Bernard Shaw, who came inappropriately attired to a formal affair. When it was pointed out to him, he went home and sent his butler back with the right suit and a scathing note implying that it was the suit and not its owner that had been invited. Nevertheless, the way we dress leaves an impression.

This may explain why Israeli men are increasingly discarding their over-casual attire in favor of suits. Let's face it, jeans and a sports shirt may look businesslike on a farm, but not in the city, where suits are the order of the day.

It doesn't have to be a traditional pin-striped suit. It needn't necessarily be dark. But it should be smart and neat.

There are no fixed rules about whether the pants should be cuffed or uncuffed; straight and narrow or slightly baggy. Nor does it matter whether jackets are single or double breasted, long or short sleeved, or an update of something worn by country squires a century ago. A suit is in the nature of a uniform and it makes most men look much better than they do in any other kind of garb.

The Hugo Boss collection covers the whole gamut of popular trends in suits, including shiny and light-colored fabrics, dark stripes and jackets that look almost Tyrolean.

Collars vary both in width and depth, as do lengths of jackets, to suit individual tastes and body shapes.

The longer jackets are definitely more flattering, especially on tall men. The short jackets seem disproportionate.

Boss's casual clothes also have a businesslike quality about them, almost advertising that this is what CEOs wear when they're not at the conference table.



From the Hugo Boss collection.

US Moslems look to no-interest Islamic institutions for loans

By DONNA ABU-NASR

Alaa Sallam's religion comes before business or luxury.

A Moslem geological consultant, Sallam would have no car, house or professional equipment without Islamic financial institutions that provide him interest-free loans, as Islam demands.

"I didn't want to go to commercial banks and go through usury," said Sallam, 36, a naturalized American who emigrated from his native Egypt, 12 years ago.

Like Sallam, a growing number of devout Moslems in the US and Canada are turning for major purchases to financial institutions run according to *Sharia* — Islam's legal code spelled out in the Koran.

The bedrock of Islamic business transactions — banking, mortgages, loans — is the religion's ban on interest payments, described in the Koran as *usury*.

The Koran requires Moslems to share the risk of an investment while sharing the profits from it, and prohibits contracts in which one party must repay a certain amount of money in a certain amount of time.

Starting Islamic financial businesses in North America has not been easy. Entrepreneurs say they faced the problem of reaching a widely dispersed Moslem population and finding money to finance transactions in a system driven by interest.

Some are trying to interest Islamic banks in the Middle East and Asia to invest in Islamic housing cooperatives in the US.

The financial institutions started small. In the early 1980s, most of the businesses were investment companies that bought stocks considered *halal*, or legal under the *Sharia*. Then came leasing companies and housing cooperatives.

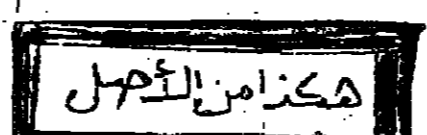
except that executives closely examine each stock to ensure it is *halal*. Buying stocks is acceptable, because everyone shares in the risk.

Nicholas Kaiser, portfolio manager for Amana Mutual Funds, said only about 4,000 publicly traded US companies of almost 7,000 companies Amana studied passed initial religious screening.

Before Amana bought stocks, Moslem advisers looked for subsidiaries owned by those companies that deal in products or transactions considered *haram* — illegal under *Sharia*. They include banking, gambling, alcohol and pornography.

Kaiser said Amana, which has 3,000 shareholders, dumped one big automobile company because a subsidiary is a savings and loan. Another business, a large supermarket chain, was rejected because its beer and wine sales were 3.06 percent of the total revenues, a figure Amana considered substantial. (AP)

The bedrock of Islamic business transactions is the religion's ban on interest payments.



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday July 3, 1997

BUSINESS

in brief

Shekel gains 1.24% against the dollar

The shekel yesterday appreciated against the dollar by another 1.24%, settling at NIS 3.505...

Bill seeks expansion of Eisenberg Law

MK Haim Dayan (Tsmet) is attempting to introduce new legislation to give greater equality to companies...

Jordan, US sign investment pact

Jordan and the US signed an agreement yesterday to encourage two-way investment. A US Embassy statement said...

Saudi prince heads \$65m. project in Egypt

Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal, who is a nephew of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, and a group of Egyptian companies have agreed...

KLM: Northwest-stake sale an option

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines said yesterday the sale of its shares in Northwest Airlines was one of the options open...

Kohl aides: France deficit problematic

Wolfgang Schaeuble, a senior aide to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said yesterday it could pose a problem...

The Port of Hadera - the Port of Energy Tender for the Sale of TWO TUGBOATS at the Port of Hadera Hadera Port Tender No. 1/97

- 1. The Ministry of Transport, the Port of Hadera, invites bids for the purchase of two tugboats, moored at the Port of Hadera.
2. The tugboats are offered, in their present condition...

Hapoalim rejects Shamrock demand for Koor break-up

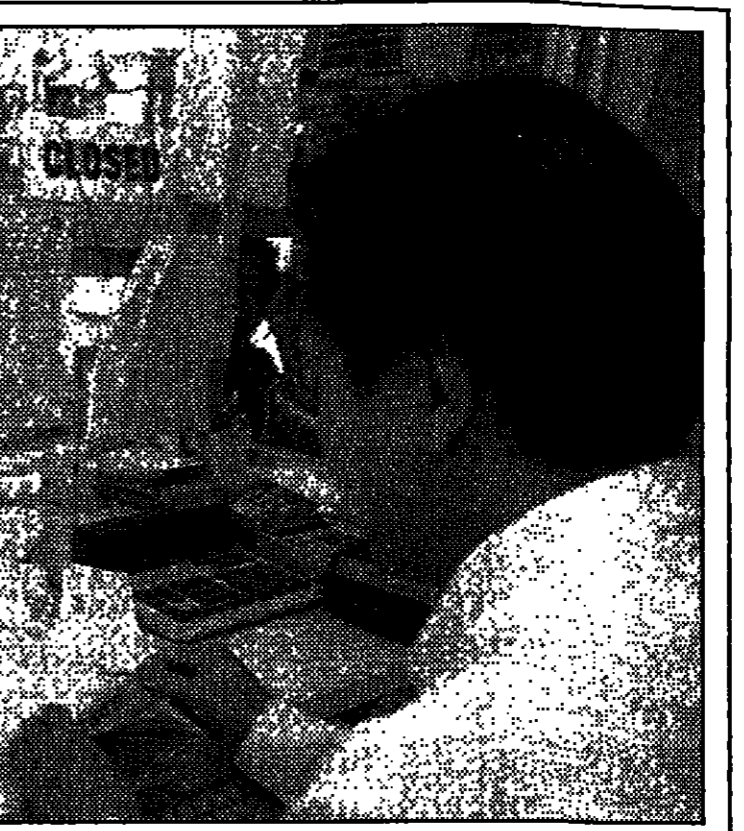
Hapoalim decided not to accept Gold's request due to the fact that the government is scheduled to sell the bank in the middle of August...

The Shamrock group will, in the end, decide to sell its share in Koor. Gold has denied these assessments.



Thailand seeks IMF help

A foreign exchange official counts money for his customer at an exchange booth in Bangkok yesterday.



Cable & Wireless win PA telecom contract

British-based Cable & Wireless has won the contract to provide management support and help develop the telecommunications sector in the Palestinian Authority areas.

Cable & Wireless latest investment in the West Bank and Gaza follows involvement in the telecommunications of Bahrain, the Republic of Yemen, Lebanon...

Advertisement for INTERNET POST CLASSIFIEDS with a form to reach all of Israel and the world for just \$19 US Dollars/NIS 45...

Advertisement for GLOBES Israel's Financial Daily with a subscription offer and phone number 03-697-9254.

Africa Israel to invest \$27m. in Nazareth mall

The investors expect the mall to open by the start of the year 2000 festivities. In November, diamond merchant Lev Levis bought a major stake in Africa Israel from Bank Leumi.

Advertisement for 'A fax for you' from Israel Discount Bank, offering 15 minutes and in for you.

State revenues short of target in first half

Internal revenues for the first half of 1997 have fallen short of the government's preliminary targets...

The official would not disclose the extent of the shortfall. The shortfall in revenues can be explained by seasonal factors, said the official...

The Income Tax and Property Tax department registered an overall 7% real-terms increase in revenues in the first half, collecting NIS 29.2b.

The shortfalls in revenues has in part contributed to the semi-annual budget deficit of NIS 2,653b. as announced by the Treasury on Tuesday.

The Treasury also announced details of imports of durable goods during the first six months (the percentage increases and decreases are in comparison to the equivalent period in 1996).

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS table showing exchange rates for various currencies like US dollar, Pound sterling, German mark, etc.

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK. Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

MISHTANIM. Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES. Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

NYSE. Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Includes various international stocks.

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TASE ROUNDUP. Shares up on optimism about inflation. Maof 302.25 ▲ 1.18%. By ROBERT DANIEL and JOSHUA MITNICK.

Tel Aviv stock indexes rose back toward their records yesterday, as investors were optimistic that the strengthening of the shekel would ease concern about resurgent inflation and higher interest rates.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP. Euro bourses mixed. LONDON (Reuters) — Key European bourses put on a mixed performance yesterday, failing to hold early record or near-record levels, but reviving by the close.

WALL STREET REPORT. Dow soars to near record. NEW YORK (Reuters) — Blue-chip stocks closed sharply higher yesterday as the Federal Reserve's decision to hold interest rates steady unleashed a wave of buying, lifting the Dow Jones industrial average within a fraction of a new record high.

WHERE TO GO. MUSEUMS. TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Andres Serrano: The Morgue. Soviet Photography from the Museum collection. Lucian Freud: VAT, per month.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE. EMERGENCY PHARMACIES. Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Maccabi, 15 Agrippas, 624-3466; Basmal, Salah el Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 561-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herods Gate, 823-2028.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE. DUTY HOSPITALS. Jerusalem: B'nei Haim (Internal, pediatric); Hadassah Ein Kerem (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Shaare Zedek (obstetrics).

Advertisement for 'Kizman' (Kizman) featuring a large graphic and text.

The limits of success

Experts are calling for austerity measures to curb Poland's ballooning trade deficit



Things have changed since Poles stood on lines for meat, such as this one in Cracow in 1991; now their economy is in fact overheating. (F.D. Smith)

WARSAW (Reuters) — Poland's left-wing government, faced with an uphill battle to stay in power in September elections, is fending off mounting calls for austerity to avoid turning an economic success story into a disaster.

The government, usually proud of its impressive economic record, found itself on the defensive this week when the central bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said separately that only a balanced budget would save Poland from a Czech-style currency crisis.

At the heart of the debate is the ballooning trade deficit, caused by a steep increase in imports, that for many economists and investors means a threat of eventual devaluation and economic slowdown.

The dispute put a strain on the Polish currency, the zloty, which fell half a percentage point on Thursday. Share prices also eased as some foreign investors reacted nervously to the dispute.

Poland's fundamentals remain encouraging, but are in the shadow of recent events in the Czech Republic, where a runaway trade gap provoked a speculative attack on the crown and contributed to a considerable economic slowdown.

Analysts have forecast Poland's current account deficit to widen to some \$6 billion this year from \$1.4b. in 1996 and the trade gap to soar to \$12b., or five percent of GDP, from \$8.2b. last year.

In the first four months of 1997, Poland's C/A deficit amounted to \$2.5b. and the trade gap to \$4b. The forecast for next year is more dismal, with some seeing the trade gap hitting \$16b., or 8% of GDP.

The government agrees with analysts that domestic demand and consumption must be curbed to cool down the deficit. But Finance Minister Marek Belka rebuffed calls for a balanced budget immediately.

He said planned reduction in the deficit next year and high real interest rates should

sufficiently cool demand.

"We know we have to cool internal demand and that restrictive monetary and budget policies are needed...but I think that (what we propose) will be sufficient," Belka told a news conference on Wednesday.

The government has indicated next year's budget deficit would fall to two or less percent of GDP from this year's planned 2.8% shortfall. But the IMF, which does not lend to Poland at the moment but keeps monitoring the economy, is not satisfied.

"We advise the government to do everything possible to limit the deficit already in 1997 and reduce it even further next year, so that producing a balanced budget is possible in 1999 at the latest," IMF representative Markus Rodlauer said in a newspaper comment.

Analysts said the budget deficit could be slashed in 1998 if Poland cut subsidies to ailing sectors such as mining or agriculture or ended costly indexation of wages.

They doubted, however, that government would risk announcing unpopular spending cuts as it gears up its election campaign to fight off a challenge from right-wing parties grouped around Solidarity.

Apparently ducking the issue, the government announced that the final budget draft would be presented in October — after the elections — leaving a potential time bomb to whoever wins.

"At levels now proposed by the government, it's going to be touch and go, but the outcome of next year's budget is as uncertain as the outcome of the elections," said Robert Beange, economist at Lehman Brothers in London.

He said there was some hope that after the elections, any government with a fresh mandate would be able to tighten up considerably, seeing the dangers of failing to react.

"With the Czech crisis in such recent memory, I can see that after elections are out of the way, the budget could tighten a little more than they are talking about at the moment...if a reasonable, solid government forms."

Finance Minister Belka, a non-party economist allied to President Aleksander Kwasniewski, says critics should have some patience to allow the current monetary environment to work.

"You should have some faith in our monetary policy and some patience," Belka told investors in New York this week.

The National Bank of Poland, the central bank, twice increased obligatory reserves this year while keeping nominal interest rates flat amid falling inflation.

Poland's official rates, at 25% and 22% for the lombard and discount rate respectively, have remained fixed since last July, while inflation has slipped some six points to year-on-year 14.6% in May this year.

Analysts believe monetary policy was restrictive enough and that further tightening would be counterproductive. Raising costs of borrowing would be costly to the budget, stifle investment and attract hot foreign capital whose swings are indirectly to blame for the Czech crown's downfall.

"An interest rise is the last thing Poland needs," said Krzysztof Rybinski, head analyst at ING Bank in Warsaw.

This widely held view was not shared by the IMF, which said Poland should quickly tighten its monetary policy in order to sub-focate ever-larger domestic demand.

Analysts also agree with financial author-

ities that a weakening of the zloty, a cure advocated by some politicians' and exporters' lobbies, should be avoided.

Belka said the current 1% per month crawling devaluation of the zloty offered exporters sufficient help and any deeper cut would offer only temporary relief. It would fail to address the core problem of containing booming domestic demand and have inflationary effects.

The consumer and investment boom in Poland comes in the wake of more than four years of fast economic growth, and domestic demand is a strong factor propelling the economy. The first quarter GDP rose 7.3%.

Investment is growing at about 20%, which is a positive factor as the economy rapidly modernizes and boosts capacity and efficiency.

Falling unemployment also contributes to higher consumer confidence, boosting consumer demand and the feel-good factor that the left is counting on to help it win the vote.

Belka and some analysts say robust direct foreign investment would protect Poland from currency crisis by boosting hard currency reserves, and gradually produce a boom in exports.

"As long as the (trade) gap is filled with foreign investments in productive assets, there is no danger," Belka said.

"The difference between Poland and the Czech Republic is that our deficit is almost entirely financed by foreign direct investments, short-term capital only counting for a few percent, while in the Czech Republic the proportion was different," he added.

Foreign direct investment rose \$5.19b. in 1996, pushing the amount attracted by Poland since 1990 to more than \$12b. The government's Foreign Investment Agency (PAIZ) says the investment should reach \$30b. by the year 2000.

WORLD BEAT

WITH WOJCIECH MOSKWA

My Point

BY ABRAHAM TAI

Inflation vs. unemployment

Most people believe that inflation and unemployment are mutually exclusive. In fact, they are not. Inflation and unemployment can coexist, and in some cases, one can lead to the other.

In the United States, the Federal Reserve has been fighting inflation for several years. It has raised interest rates and reduced the money supply. As a result, inflation has fallen from 5.4% in 1992 to 2.3% in 1996. However, unemployment has risen from 5.3% in 1992 to 6.9% in 1996.

The reason for this is that the economy has slowed down. As a result, companies are producing less and hiring fewer workers. This has led to a rise in unemployment.

Some people argue that the Fed should lower interest rates to stimulate the economy and reduce unemployment. However, this could lead to a rise in inflation. The Fed must balance the need to reduce unemployment with the need to control inflation.

In other countries, such as Poland, the situation is different. The economy is overheating, and inflation is rising. The government is calling for austerity measures to curb the trade deficit and reduce inflation.

The lesson is that inflation and unemployment are not mutually exclusive. They can coexist, and in some cases, one can lead to the other. The government must balance the need to reduce unemployment with the need to control inflation.

AT THE MALL

Shopping for the back-to-school season is already in full swing. Parents are looking for everything from notebooks to backpacks. Many stores are offering special deals and discounts. It's a busy time for retailers.

Parents are also looking for quality products. They want their children to have the best supplies for the new school year. This has led to a rise in prices for some items.

However, many stores are offering special deals and discounts. Parents can find great deals on everything from notebooks to backpacks. It's a good time to shop.

SMART SHOPPING

Summer assignment

School's out, but back-to-school marketers are already targeting students

By RACHEL NEIMAN

The school bell has barely finished ringing, but stores are already stocking up for the return next September. Israeli kids have become more fashion-conscious in their choice of notebooks and school bags, realizing that such supplies send out clear messages to their peer groups. Accordingly, there is no shortage of outlets or marketers of school supplies.

In Israel today there are 2,200 stores — including major chains such as Kravitz, Graffiti and Arta — in which over 50 percent of inventory is stationery supplies. The 1996 turnover for stationery-goods retail sales was NIS 1.9 billion.

According to the spokeswoman for the 9th annual Back to School '97 exhibition, which took place June 24-26 at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds, the sector has become increasingly competitive, and aggressive promotional campaigns have become the outstanding characteristic for market players. For instance, individual store owners make special efforts to reach customers directly, even going so far as to approach schools, put leaflets in neighborhood mailboxes, lower overheads and narrow profit margins. There are also more discounts and sales.

An increase in the volume of imports accounts for additional changes in the marketplace. Over 80% of stationery products in

Israel are imported. In recent years there has been a rise in low- to mid-quality imports from China, with higher-quality goods imported from the US and Europe.

Most locally manufactured stationery products are made from paper and cardboard, and there too, the change is marked. Companies such as 60-year-old veteran Dafnon, whose brown-backed notebooks were once standard issue, now offer multicolored design series, several times a year. Palphot has licensed the characters from Disney's new feature film Hercules, who will appear on everything from tiny stickers to large loose-leaf binders. Hercules follows hard on the heels of the winter hit 101 Dalmatians, also licensed by Palphot.

But importers are starting to infiltrate into local notebook territory. The Eli Bar company has Blassetti Italian-imported notebooks, especially adapted to Israeli needs: They open from right to left. Made from Indian paper, the notebooks are competitively priced at NIS 3-NIS 4.

The country's main stage for announcing and displaying what's going to be hot during the coming year is the Back to School '97 exhibit, where 60 manufacturers and importers were on hand this year to present their wares to office equipment and stationery stores, schools, institutions, busi-

nesses and organizations.

Flic by Mapal, makers of polypropylene-backed stationery goods, issued their 1997 catalog in time for the show, presenting 50 new products. The company says it has invested \$3m. in upgrading its production line in preparation for the coming year. Flic Marketing Manager Menachem Zilka says he expects to sell 1.5 million items even before school starts in September — "and hundreds of thousands more in the autonomous areas."

One technological innovation used by Mapal is a material made of 50% plastic and 50% recycled diapers. Another, slightly more high-tech innovation called Quicktionary was introduced to the world at Back to School '97. It's a hand-held translation aid that scans texts and displays the translation to users on the spot. The product,

priced at NIS 549, was developed for non-native English speakers by Wizcom of the Lipman Electronics group and is available in Hebrew-English, French-English, German-English, Dutch-English, Japanese-English, Spanish-English and Italian-English. The first commercial shipment of Quicktionary was sent out a week before the show to French office-equipment chain Fnac, where it was reportedly snapped up by customers. The manufacturer hopes the product will create a mini-revolution among students and businesspeople alike.

Road Safety Hint

When approaching a blind corner

SLOW DOWN!

It could save your life!



Thursday, July 3, 1997

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TO GO

ASSISTANCE

Man ops on David Jerusalem

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra follows in the footsteps of other musical organizations like the Israel Chamber Orchestra, the New Israeli Opera and the...

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News Flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:35 Encounter Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

WHAT'S ON

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News Flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:35 Encounter Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 3 columns: Time, Program Name, Channel

FILM

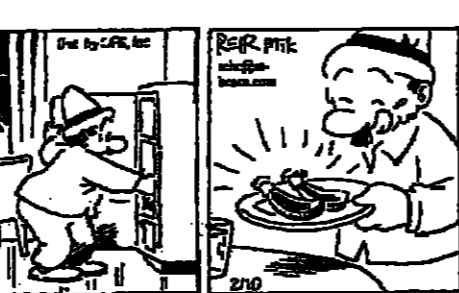
ADINA HOFFMAN

HERCULES - Walt Disney's latest full-length musical cartoon is both highly energetic and rather scandalous.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

The First Circle is a high class, two-part thriller based on Alexander Solzhenitzyn's novel about the imaginary outcome of a nuclear race in the Stalintist USSR of 1949.



CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Today's Cartoons
6:30 Breakfast Magazine

CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion
6:30 Bodies in Motion
6:30 Bodies in Motion

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Cryptic crossword puzzle with clues and grid.

JORDAN TV

15:30 Holy Koran
15:35 Cartoons
15:40 Tennis from Wimbledon

CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University
6:00 Open University
6:00 Open University

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword puzzle with clues and grid.

SOLUTIONS

Solutions to the crossword puzzles.

CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University
6:00 Open University
6:00 Open University

MOVIES

Movie listings with titles and showtimes.

Agency, chief rabbis meeting 'breakthrough' National service mini-crisis

By LIAT COLLINS

Another coalition crisis similar to the one over the Conversion Law was narrowly averted in the Knesset yesterday by a similar solution: creating a committee to discuss the issue.

Yesterday's mini-crisis focused on different bills which would make national service mandatory for all citizens - including haredim and Arabs - in either a military or a civilian framework.

Following a morning coalition meeting, it was decided to establish a committee including MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) and Yossi Beilin (Labor) - who proposed the bills - and coalition whip Michael Eitan to discuss the proposed legislation, and Rubinstein and Beilin both withdrew their bills for now.

In the morning United Torah Judaism's Moshe Gafni told the whips from the coalition parties that if the bills went ahead, his party would turn them into motions of no-confidence which would mean that those who support the bills

including the National Religious Party, Yisrael Ba'aliya and the Third Way would have to vote against the premier in order to pass them.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai (Shas) said his party also objected to the proposed legislation as an infringement on the status quo.

When Eitan informed Rubinstein and Beilin that if the bills came up, they would not have the majority they thought, the two opposition MKs agreed to withdraw them and establish the committee to try to reach an acceptable solution. The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday. It is meant to finish its work within two weeks.

Rubinstein said if no agreement is reached regarding voluntary national service for all those exempt from military service, he will raise the bill again before the Knesset recess at the beginning of August.

The coalition meeting was marked by the same emotions raised by the coalition bills. Gafni

strongly criticized the NRP for supporting the bills. "It's inconceivable that you sit with Rubinstein and reach an agreement with him without checking with us first," he told NRP Whip Hanan Porat. "We have for a long time cooperated on religious issues, what has happened today?"

In other army-related matters, MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) yesterday said the National Insurance Institute would pay all discharged soldiers who worked in preferential fields, including construction, a bonus of some NIS 5,500. The NII had refused to pay those soldiers who found the work on their own and not via the national employment services.

MK Shaul Yahalom (NRP) has demanded that the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee discuss the intention to disband the IDF's Education Corps. He said the corps should retain its independence and be headed by an officer of the rank of brigadier general to cope with such problems as a drop in motivation.

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

"Breakthrough" was the word a Jewish Agency spokesman used to describe yesterday's decision by the Agency Board of Governors' Committee on the Unity of the Jewish People and Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau and Eliahu Bakshi-Doron to meet on a regular basis, thereby formalizing the dialogue between them.

The two sides also agreed to formulate guidelines aimed at making sure the dialogue does not degenerate into verbal attacks by one side on the other.

However, the spokesman for the chief rabbis issued a statement after the meeting saying "the chief rabbis made clear in the meeting that they have no intention of negotiating with streams which do not recognize Halacha" and noted that they told the committee members "those who belong to such streams should repent."

Nonetheless, members of the committee said after the gathering that this was the first time a basis had been created for a dialogue between all the various streams and movements in Israel and the Diaspora, and that the Agency is now the only body through which this dialogue could be maintained. And while noting that the chief rabbis were not prepared to hold discussions with Reform and Conservative leaders as representatives of those movements, an Agency spokesman noted that the committee did indeed include leading representatives of those streams.

At the beginning of the meeting, Lau made clear that, from the standpoint of the Chief Rabbinate, matters of divorce, marriage, and conversion belong to the consensus within the Jewish people, and anyone trying to change them was trying to divide the people. "The rabbinate has only the Law received at Mt. Sinai," he said. "And whoever accepts it, is part of us. We have no mandate or ability to change

the laws of conversion."

Bakshi-Doron urged the leaders of Diaspora Jewry to fight what he said is the most important problem of the Jewish people, assimilation. "We must first think about how to save the sinking ship," he said, "instead of standing on its deck and sending messages for assistance to those on safe ground, the land of Israel."

Members of the committee expressed their pain and fear of the split in the Jewish people. Rabbi Kurt Vernon, chairman of the United Jewish Appeal's board of rabbis and affiliated with the Conservative Movement, mentioned the incident at the Western Wall on Shavuot in which Conservative Jews were attacked while praying there. He said such incidents, when viewed by Conservative Jews in the US, create distance between them and Israel. "I try to bring them closer to Israel, but what happened at the Wall and the haredi demonstrations in Jerusalem only distance them more and make them feel they are outsiders. My community no longer feels at home here." The chief rabbis responded that violence is not the way of the Chief Rabbinate.

Since the committee convenes during Agency Board of Governors meetings, with the next meeting scheduled for October, work was already under way to set up at meeting between the two sides at that time.

Anat Galili, spokesman for the Movement for Progressive Judaism, said of the meeting: "The dispute is not with Orthodoxy. We respect them. What we expect is for our converts to be recognized as Jews for civilian registration. The issue is not that they said they wouldn't negotiate with us and that we should become observant. There was no negotiating going on. The story is that the chief rabbis sat in the same room with Reform and Conservative rabbis. They understand how important Jewish unity is and that we need to talk about it."



A group of youngsters get into the spirit of yesterday's Independence Day/Canada Day picnic in Jerusalem.

Independence Day II in Sacher Park

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

They came by the hundreds to Sacher Park to celebrate the independence days of their old coun-

tries, in a Jerusalem tradition that has been called the American Mimouna.

Sponsored by the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel, the annual Independence Day/Canada Day picnic in the park was a cornucopia of music, square dancing, ball playing, face painting, kite flying and - most important - the eating of hot dogs, hamburgers and corn on the cob.

"It's cool, with the hot dogs and cotton candy," said Dan Plotkin, a 23-year-old student at Hebrew Union College. "It's a good American celebration - but there's no bingo." The event, now in its 11th year, is traditionally held on July 2, because it falls between the July 1 Canada Day celebration, and America's July 4.

Eitan Buchman, 11, who emigrated from Chicago with his family two years ago, was not overly impressed with the celebration. "In America they have better barbecue, and they have fireworks," he said, adding that he felt strange

celebrating another Independence Day, "because we celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut already, and it doesn't make sense to have two in one year."

A different objection was voiced by Steven Wise, a 23-year-old student from Toronto who is about to go back home after a year at the Hebrew University.

"I just find that the lack of Canadian content at this fair is disturbing me," he said. "I was hoping for some kind of patriotic something...I'm extremely patriotic, I love Canada. And why aren't there games for adults, like a Color War between Canadians and Americans?"

That's about as much of a war as Ailon Shiloh would want to see. As commander of the Jewish War Veterans Post 180 in Jerusalem, he and his comrades have seen enough real battle. Yesterday they were there as color guards on behalf of the US consulate. "The idea is to fly the flag in an honorable way," said Shiloh.

Ron Dermer, a 27-year-old political consultant from Miami Beach who is in the process of becoming an Israeli citizen, said he was surprised that he didn't see people "wearing their American pride, showing pride in both their American and Jewish heritage, like wearing red, white and blue t-shirts." Larry DeKoven, a 27-year-old from Chicago who is doing army service as a new immigrant, said he was celebrating "as a one-time American Jew who has now made aliya, but who has not shed his American upbringing, or the values of Americanism that Israel can definitely use."

For most of the people, it was a day for fun, to sit on blankets with family and shmooze the afternoon away.

"I come to the picnic because I really get a lot of enjoyment out of seeing Americans who have made aliya, and who have made it successfully," said Gerry Farkas, a 44-year-old native of Chicago. "It gives me a lot of pleasure."

Lubavitch hassidim, secular group clash in Ramat Aviv

By JONATHAN TEPPERMAN and AVI LEVY

Lubavitch hassidim and members of a group called Am-Hofshi (A Free

People) clashed Tuesday night in Tel Aviv's Ramat Aviv neighborhood, when Am-Hofshi activists disrupted a Lubavitch prayer session being held in a local apartment. Though no

arrests were made, police had to be called.

The dispute between the two groups concerns an apartment owned by Habad in the predominantly secular Ramat Aviv. Am-Hofshi claims that the apartment has been used as a center for religious activism and for commercial transactions by the Lubavitchers, in violation of zoning laws and to the consternation of local residents. Habad counters that the apartment is a private residence, owned by seven or eight young men who work in Tel Aviv and who periodically gather together to study Torah.

The two organizations dispute what exactly happened on Tuesday night. What is clear is that approximately 30 members of Am-Hofshi entered the apartment, accompanied by a number of journalists, and attempted to disrupt the proceedings. While Am-Hofshi members claim that the apartment is open and that they were invited in, the Lubavitchers dispute this and are filing trespass charges.

Also disputed is the nature of activities within the apartment. As Yossi Furman, Am-Hofshi's secretary, told Israel Radio yesterday, "The activities in the apartment are illegal because the apartment is supposed to be residential and not used for business. These very people try to bring secular children closer to the faith by giving them money to join them in prayers."

Mendy Brod, a Lubavitch spokesman, said that the apartment is not used as a public place and that not just anyone may join in the prayers held there.

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WEATHER

Haifa 21-30	Tel Aviv 20-28
Ashdod 25-32	Samarita 17-30
Jerusalem 19-29	Beersheba 18-33
Eilat 25-40	

Forecast: Clear to partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	11	19	cloudy
Berlin	16	21	cloudy
Buenos Aires	23	28	clear
Chicago	23	28	cloudy
Copenhagen	11	19	cloudy
Frankfurt	11	19	cloudy
Geneva	17	23	clear
Hong Kong	25	30	clear
Jakarta	21	30	clear
Lisbon	13	20	cloudy
London	11	19	cloudy
Los Angeles	19	28	clear
Madrid	13	20	clear
Moscow	14	24	clear
New York	21	28	cloudy
Paris	13	20	clear
Rome	17	24	clear
Sao Paulo	21	28	clear
Sydney	16	24	clear
Tokyo	23	28	cloudy
Vienna	17	24	clear
Zurich	11	19	cloudy

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance draw were the queen of spades, 7 of hearts, 7 of diamonds, and queen of clubs. The results of the second draw were the jack of spades, 7 of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and 8 of clubs.

Bezeq workers defy Livnat

By JUDY SIEGEL

Bezeq workers yesterday continued to ignore instructions by Communications Minister Limor Livnat and their own director-general Ami Erel and refused to connect Barak and Golden Lines to the international telephone exchange.

The minister said the opening of competition in overseas dialing would have to wait for "a few more days," adding that efforts must be taken to "end the monopolies in the telecommunications sector and in other sectors as well."

Golden Lines managing director Rami Balinkov said that because of the sanctions, consumers are paying three times more than they have to for overseas calls. Golden Lines' and Barak's new rates were to have gone into effect on Tuesday, but because Bezeq International announced even lower prices that undercut those stipulated in the ministry's tender, the new era has been postponed.

Balinkov charged that Bezeq workers are "trying to preserve Bezeq International's monopoly in a blatant violation of the law. We are ready. We have already dedicated our international exchange, but it has not been connected to our customers because of the Bezeq workers' union. Their acts are those of hoodlums."

Bezeq management has not denounced the union's action, but merely said it "regretted" it.

The third overseas dialing provider, Barak, said that it too was ready to begin service if only its exchange were connected. Managing director Avi Pattir hosted Livnat on Tuesday night at the company's Rosh Ha'ayin headquarters for a bittersweet ceremony.

"The joy is not complete, because the expected use of our lines to carry hundreds of thousands of calls has been delayed by irresponsible action by Bezeq workers," he said.

The Bezeq workers' union, however, said it would connect its competitors' exchanges only when it became "convinced that there is genuine free competition."

"What kind of competition is it when one of the competitors is forced to charge high prices and the others may set lower rates?" said union head Shlomo Kfir. The union demands that the government implement the agreement the ministry signed to "ensure Bezeq's financial stability," which Livnat said was in jeopardy because of the sanctions.

hook u

By JUDY SIEGEL

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הכזמן האחרון